

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/069,871

Attorney Docket No. 70606.00035
Customer No. 35161**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-8, are presently pending in the application. Claims 2 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 5 due to an informality.

Claim 5 has been amended to correct for any informality noted by the Examiner.

Claims 1-8 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states that it is unclear how the ratcheting means is formed to "have a tension".

The claims have been amended to correct for any lack of clarity. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the first and second protrusions" on line 19 of Claim 1.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct for any indefiniteness noted by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 5 as being anticipated by Johnson, Jr. et al (US Patent 5,092,477).

However, the Examiner has found dependent Claims 2-4 and 6-8 as avoiding the art of record when read as including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Although the Applicants disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the Johnson, Jr. et al. reference, in order to further the prosecution of this case, the recitations of Claim 2 have

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been included in Claim 1, and the recitations of Claim 6 have been included in Claim 5, and Claims 2 and 6 canceled.

Accordingly, the application should be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there is any issue which could be resolved by a telephone or personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such an extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,



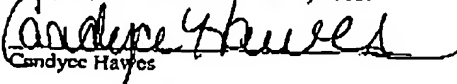
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Candace Hayes

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